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Reply to: **Tampa, FL**

Thursday - October 4, 2001

**TAMPA MAN FOUND GUILTY ON
ECSTASY SMUGGLING CHARGES**

Tampa, FL - After a three day trial, a jury found STEVE CLEVELAND MILLER guilty late Wednesday afternoon on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 3, 4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as "ecstasy".

Testimony at the trial revealed that MILLER made trips to Europe and bought carnival equipment such as lighting, speakers and bumper cars. He also bought equipment to prepare food such as grills and other cooking equipment. Prosecutors told the jury that MILLER shipped thousands of ecstasy pills from Europe back to the United States by hiding them in the carnival equipment shipments.

MILLER faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison. U.S. Attorney Mac Cauley stated, "This drug has given a death sentence to some young people and we continue to vigorously prosecute those who make this deadly drug available to the youth of our community."

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Clearwater Police and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James Preston.